

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 1, 2003

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, April 1, 2003, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield. Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and Councilman Hudson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Members present:

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson to approve, as written, the Minutes of the March 4, 2003, Regular Meeting of Edgefield County Council, and the Minutes of the Public Hearings held on Ordinances 02-03-430; 02-03-431; 02-03-432, and 02-03-433. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

No questions concerning reports.

Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-431, "An Ordinance Amending Title XV of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Clarify Regulations Concerning the Establishment and Operation of Home Occupation Businesses in Zoned Areas of the County." Motion carried unanimously.

Third and final reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-433, "An Ordinance Providing for a Lease and Agreement Between Edgefield County and Plane Fun, Inc., Whereby the Latter Shall Lease the Premises of the Trenton Airport and Serve As the Airport's Fixed Base Operator" was the next agenda item. Chairman Kneece stated that the third reading would be postponed due to a conflict concerning the ordinance. Will be taken up at a later date.

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Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-434, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 39 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Change Certain Terminology in Order to Comply with Recommendations of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division." Motion carried unanimously.

First reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-432, "An Ordinance Amending the Edgefield County Zoning Map to Change the Zoning Designation of Tax Parcel 105-00-00-066 from Residential Development (RD) to Limited Commercial (LC)", died for lack of a motion.

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-435, "An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2003-04 General Operating Budget, and to Establish Budgets Pertaining to Debt Service, E911 Administration, Victims' Bill of Rights, and Certain Capital Expenditures." Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Bright made a motion to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-436, "An Ordinance Adopting the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC) Relating to Inspection Activities Concerning Electrical Applications and Providing for Enforcement of the Provisions of Said Code." Motion seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mrs. Jan Westmoreland, Area Supervisor, Aiken Vocational Rehabilitation Center, was present to address council concerning the different training programs available through the Center. Areas covered through the Aiken Vocational Rehab Center are Aiken, Edgefield, and Barnwell Counties. Mission is to enable eligible individuals with disabilities trying to help themselves obtain, maintain employment; getting them back into the work force. The services provided are very beneficial to the individuals in this county. Been in business for 76 years.

Council received board appointment requests from GLEAMNS and the Piedmont Technical College Board. GLEAMNS asked council to reappoint or replace Willie Bright on its board to represent the "public sector", and Everette Kitchens to continue representing the "private sector." Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kneece, to approve the reappointment of Councilman Bright and Councilman Kitchens to the GLEAMNS Board. Motion carried. Chairman Kneece recommended the appointment of Mrs. Jane Herlong to the Piedmont Tech Board to fill the unexpired term of Joe Seel (moved to Columbia). Mr. Seel's term would expire July 1, 2003. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to appoint Mrs. Herlong to the Piedmont Technical College Board to fill the unexpired term

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of Mr. Seel. Motion carried.

Funding requests from several entities was the next agenda item: fourth quarter payment of \$4,000 (Edgefield Civic League/Courtesy Center; American Legion Baseball; Bettis Park Committee and Bettis Park Baseball. The Administrator informed council there is \$9,500 in the account from which these requests will be funded; that does not include the Bettis Park Committee request (separate line item). Civic League: \$4,000; Bettis Baseball: \$2,700; anything given to American Legion Baseball, which is a new request (all from account 806-279). Johnston Dixie Youth has not requested their \$2,700. Total remaining would be \$100.00. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve the Civic League/Courtesy Center request for the fourth quarter payment of \$4,000.00. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Kneece recommended, but did not put in the form of a motion, that council not accept any new funding requests this year. Councilman Hudson made the motion not accept any new funding requests this year. Seconded by Councilman Kitchens. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the Bettis Park Baseball request of \$2,700.00. Motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney John F. Byrd, Jr. explained the next item of business concerning the adjoining property to the "old stockade." Mr. Byrd stated that a couple of months ago the council authorized the execution of a new plat/new survey of the old stockade property which turned out to be approximately 11.77 acres. In so doing, the survey showed there was a small piece of property (1/4 of an acre or less) on the western side of the property which actually belonged to Ms. Betty Paxton. The strip has been shown on the new survey and Mr. Byrd stated that he understood that the desire of council was to have him prepare a quit claim deed (no money involved) to straighten out the landline between the adjoining landowner and the county. Until this is done, of course, there is an encroachment onto someone else's property. Council cannot move forward until this matter is straightened out. Mr. Byrd recommended that the quit claim deed be signed by the Administrator and the Chairman to straighten out the line to be recorded putting the fourth of an acre in Ms. Betty Paxton's name, according to the new survey. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve the recommendation of Attorney Byrd. Motion carried unanimously.

The Administrator explained the next item: proposals for Technical Support for T-1 connectivity (High-Speed Internet). Mr. Adams said that council would recall last fall when Chief Justice Toal addressed council about having T-1 connectivity, broad band connectivity, for the court system. From that project, we folded in contributions from the Department of Revenue and the State Election Commission with the Judicial Department. All of those agencies pitched in to help with the initial cabling work to get 53 computer stations throughout county departments hooked up to T-1. At that time, the Chief Justice noted that we would need some on-going support after the T-1 is connected, and that we

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would have to bear some of the final connection costs. As an alternative to putting another position on the payroll, the staff went out for proposals for firms interested in providing the initial set-up and, also, the on-going technical support. Had four firms to respond to the RFP: Pronet; Technology Solutions, Inc.; Pomeroy Computer Resources and Smith Data Processing. Mr. Adams and a staff member rated the proposals taking into the account the qualifications of the firms and also prices they would charge for the work. Joint consensus was that Pronet, not only a qualified firm, but the only one that could do the work within our budget. We recommend to council that it authorize staff to enter into a contract with Pronet. The initial setup costs would be paid from a budget that council passed when the initial connectivity project was done. The other part (on-going technical services) would extend through the next fiscal year. Included in the general operating budget. Initial setup work: \$1,800; \$13,000 a year for the tech support work (virus protection updated; assist with e-mail accounts; any connectivity problems as we move from the dial up system to constant connectivity). The county got a tremendous amount of contributions from various agencies in getting the court system, the assessor's office, and the administration offices and others (cables and setup for attachment to the T-1). Also got the advantage of hooking into the Election Commission's T-1 line, which was already here, without having to go through any more expenses to set up a separate line. Councilman Dorn asked about the Sheriff's Department being connected. The Administrator stated this would be considered when the renovations at the jail and the sheriff building are done. Will have to have some underground cable (conduit put in the ground) to do that. That will be addressed at the time of construction. There may be some funding through the Homeland Security. Councilman Kitchens asked if the other computers are on contract. Mr. Adams: "Some of the computers themselves have maintenance contracts with Smith Data (computers in the court system offices). Also have maintenance contracts on the software that run our general accounting programs. Not all of the computers have the Smith Data contract. With the rest of them we maintain a computer escrow so we are self funded in that way. Smith Data is very much oriented toward the county accounting systems and the court systems. Pronet would not be involved in that software; they do not have the expertise to do this work being awarded to Pronet. Smith Data does have the expertise to this work but their prices are high. Councilman Hudson made a motion to accept the proposal submitted by Pronet for technical support for T-1 connectivity. Seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Funding requests held over from the March 4th meeting: MEG'S House (\$5,000) and GAMES Coalition for the Homeless (\$2,300). Dr. Rebecca Lee-Grigg was present representing MEG'S House. A board member for MEG'S House and GAMES from Edgefield County (Ms. Linda Dale Shaver) addressed council concerning the services provided in Edgefield County. At the present they are working with two families in Edge-

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field. Take referrals from DSS, GLEAMNS, law enforcements agencies, churches, and individuals. The Administrator stated that fund balance of the Victims' Assistance Fund are approximately \$128,000.00. Room to make a contribution up \$5,000 to MEG'S House. However, the administrator understands this fund does not have sufficient nexus to homeless in order that it could be spent for that purpose. GAMES should come from different funds – not the Victims' Assistance Fund. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to give MEG'S House \$5,000 from the Victims' Assistance Fund. Motion carried (3 yes, one no) (Councilman Kitchens). Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to deny the \$2,300 request from GAMES. Motion carried.

The appointment of a representative to countywide recreation committee to represent Bettis Park was postponed.

Guests

Mr. Jay Lacy signed to address council concerning Ordinance No. 02-03-432, "An Ordinance Amending the Edgefield County Zoning Map to Change the Zoning Designation of Tax Parcel 105-00-00-066 from Residential Development (RD) to Limited Commercial (LC)". Mr. Lacy requested the change in the zoning. He stated he "assumed that the lack of a motion of what I proposed as a project means that this project is dead." The chairman said "yes."

Claims approved as follows:

A.	PAYROLL:	3/03/03 thru 3/16/03	
	Regular.....		\$90,546.07
	PAYROLL:	3/17/03 thru 3/30/03	
	Regular.....		\$88,894.62
B.	GENERAL OPERATING.....		\$341,316.38

Executive Session

Chairman asked for a motion to convene in executive session under Code Section §30-4-70 (a) (2) to discuss a threatened or pending lawsuit. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright to go in executive session, and return to regular session at the discretion of the chairman. Motion carried.

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Returning to regular session, the chairman stated that the matter discussed in executive session would be turned over to the attorneys for a decision and to inform council of that decision.

Chairman Kneece had one more item before council. Councilman Kitchens asked that any fees for Habitat for Humanity be waived. Motion was made by Councilman Bright to waive fees for Habitat for Humanity. Motion seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to adjourn. A budget work session is scheduled for April 10th.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council